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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Toshihisa KUROIWA

Group Art Unit: 2615

Application No.: 09/505,281

Examiner: T. Harris

Filed: February 16, 2000

Docket No.: 105403

For: ELECTRONIC CAMERA

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In reply to the March 8, 2004 Restriction and Election of Species Requirement, Applicant hereby elects Group III, claims 7-13 and 15-17. The Requirement also requested Applicant to elect between Species I and II if the Group III invention is elected. Accordingly, Applicant further elects Species I (Figs. 2 and 4). Applicant submits that claims 7-13 read on Species I. The election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions". It is respectfully

submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant, and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirements is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/ccs

Date: April 1, 2004

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